

REMARKS

Claims 1-39 are presently pending in the above-identified patent application. No claim is allowed.

The drawing figures have been objected to because the interface buffers depicted in FIG. 11 should be designated with reference numeral 26. A substitute sheet for FIG. 11 is submitted herewith correcting the error noted by the examiner. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-39 are rejected pursuant to either 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by the disclosure in Beal et al. or pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103 as obvious over the disclosure in Beal et al. The examiner has stated that claims 4-6 and 24-26 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the claims from which they depend.

Claim 1 has been amended to include most of the limitations of claim 4. Claims 4-6 have been amended to recite only the final limitations of originally-filed claims 4-6, relating to the three different mechanisms used to drive the select inputs of the multiplexers.

It is respectfully submitted that the amendment to claim 1 places it into condition for allowance since it now includes all of the limitations of claim 3 and 4 except for the recitation of the mechanism used to drive the select inputs of the multiplexers. The cited prior art does not disclose or suggest the use of buffers and multiplexers as now recited in claim 1. Claim 3 has been canceled. Claims 4-6 differed from one another only in that the mechanisms used to drive the select inputs of the multiplexers are different and this

structuring of the claims as presently amended allows the recitation of the three different mechanisms in different claims. It is respectfully urged that the present amendments substantively effect the changes intended by the examiner in the suggestion to amend claims 4-6 contained in the Office Action.

Similar amendments have been made to claims 21, and 24-26. Claim 23 has been canceled. The reasoning for the amendments to claims 21 and 24-26 and the canceling of claim 23 is the same as the reasoning for the amendments to claims 1 and 4-6 and the canceling of claim 3. As with the amendments to claims 1 and 4-6, it is respectfully urged that the amendments to claims 21 and 24-26 substantively effect the changes intended by the examiner in the suggestion to amend claims 24-26 contained in the Office Action.

With respect to the remaining dependent claims, it is respectfully submitted that they are now allowable because the claims from which they depend are now allowable.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding this application or this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at 775-586-9500.

Respectfully submitted,
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